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BATMAN[®]

585



BRUBAKER • MCDANIEL • STORY



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DIRECT SALES



\$2.25 US \$3.50 CAN

As his arm twisted up behind his back, and he felt the bones start to give, Pat Dyerson was thinking one thing... "This is just my luck, isn't it?"



All his life he had been unlucky, and if anything, it was just getting worse as time went on.

It was the little things that wore him down the most: the loud breathers who always sat behind him in movie theaters, their hot breath on his neck.



Or the loud neighbors that seemed to always surround him.



Someone once said "life is in the details" and the details of Pat's life, from small to large, painted a pretty sad picture.



So it was really no wonder that he had gotten himself into this position.





He had been playing the numbers every week for over ten years, and of course, he had never hit them...

...until two weeks ago, when his five-dollar bet had come in, at 100 to 1.



And, as they also say, "Hope springs eternal." So Pat took this as a sign that his luck had finally turned. He began dreaming of the good life.



So the next week's bet was much more than five dollars.

Dyerson:
12/30/28/9/11
\$5000



Naturally, when his numbers didn't come in and he couldn't pay up, his bookie wasn't interested in using the installment plan.



And all Pat Dyerson could think was, "This is just my luck, isn't it?"



MEASURE FOR MEASURE

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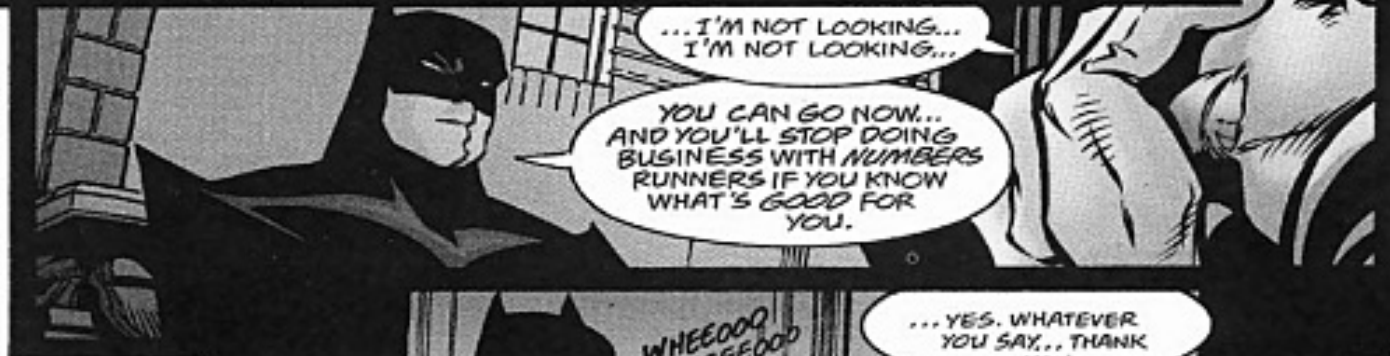
BATMAN

created by

BOB KANE

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THEY'RE CRIMINALS. THEY WERE BEATING SOMEONE. THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

THIS IS NOT A MAJOR CRIME. THIS IS ABOUT YOUR FEUD WITH THE PENGUIN...

...AND THOSE ARE TWO OF THE PENGUIN'S BOOKIES. ANY OTHER BOOKIE IN GOTHAM YOU WOULD'VE LET ALONE.

BUT FOR SOME REASON YOU'VE BEEN AFTER COBBLEPOT LIKE A PIT-BULL LATELY. CARE TO CLUE ME IN?

NO.

SUIT YOURSELF, BUT PERSONALLY, I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN CLEAN UP YOUR MESS...

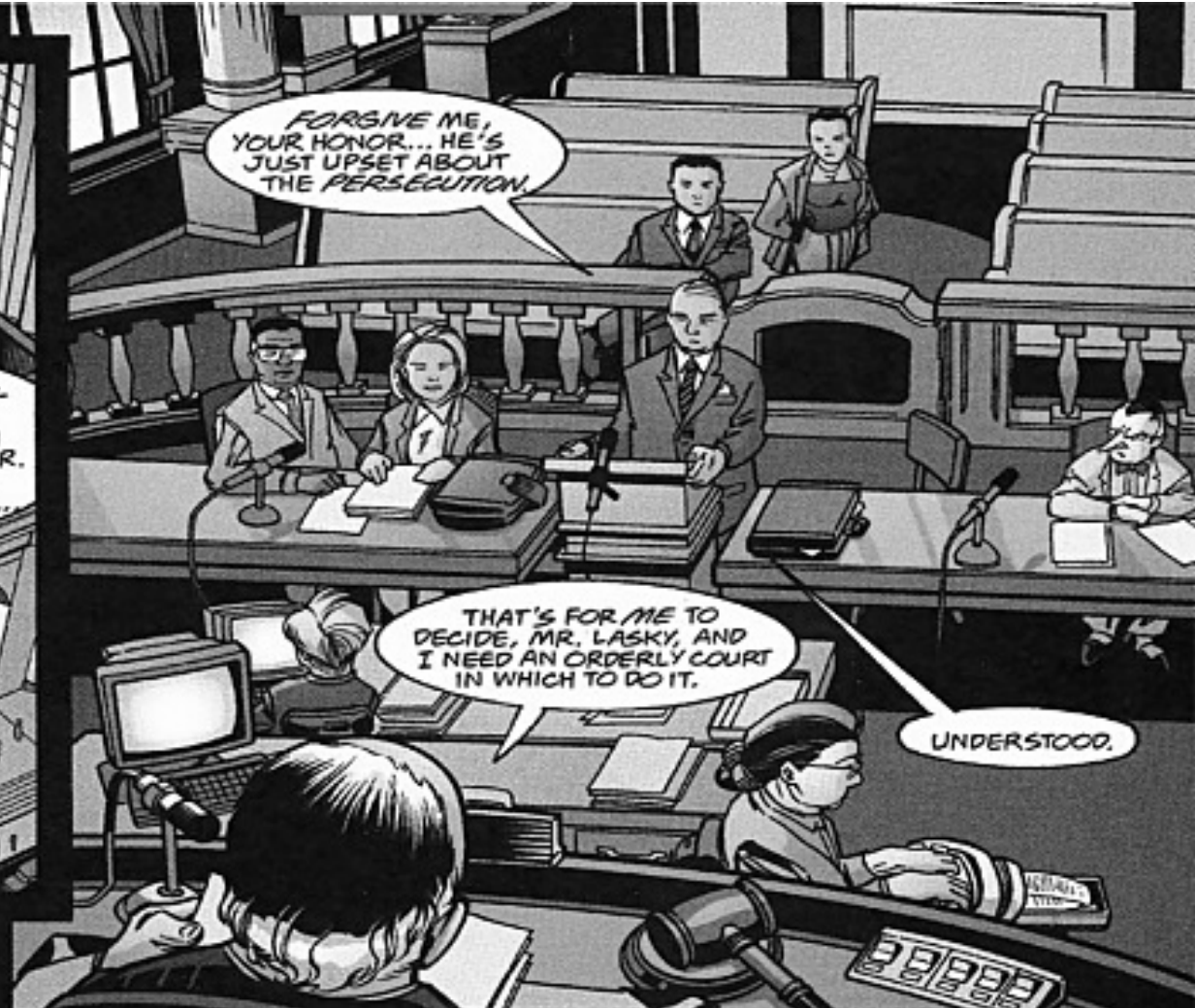
AND BETWEEN YOU AND WAYNE, THE PENGUIN'S PROBABLY ABOUT TO EXPLODE... I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

I USUALLY DO, DETECTIVE MONTROYA.

JUST CHECKING.



-- ONE MORE OUT-
BURST AND I'LL
REMOVE YOU FROM
THE COURTROOM, SIR.
CONTROL YOUR
CLIENT, COUNSEL...



FORGIVE ME,
YOUR HONOR... HE'S
JUST UPSET ABOUT
THE PERSECUTION.

THAT'S FOR ME TO
DECIDE, MR. LASKY, AND
I NEED AN ORDERLY COURT
IN WHICH TO DO IT.

UNDERSTOOD.



JUDGE BACH

I'VE REVIEWED THE BRIEFS
FROM BOTH SIDES IN THIS
MATTER, AND I HAVE TO ADMIT,
I'M INCLINED TO GRANT THE
PLAINTIFF AN INJUNCTION
BLOCKING THE SALE OF THE
BUILDING AT 624 WEST
HARDING ROAD.

BUT YOUR HONOR,
MY CLIENT IS CLEARLY
A TARGET OF
HARASSMENT IN
THIS MATTER.

WE CONTEND THAT
WAYNE INDUSTRIES
PURCHASED THE BUILDING
FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE
OF EVICTING MY CLIENT,
AND AS SUCH, THE SALE
SHOULD BE DISALLOWED.

YOUR HONOR, WAYNE
INDUSTRIES PURCHASED
THAT BUILDING THE SAME
AS ANY OTHER PROPERTY,
NOT OUT OF SOME
PARANOID CONSPIRACY
THEORY AGAINST MR.
LOBBLEPOT...

... BUT EVEN IF THAT
WERE NOT THE CASE, EVERY
MOVE WE'VE MADE HAS
BEEN WELL WITHIN THE
BOUNDS OF THE LAW.







I DON'T KNOW, WAS HE INVOLVED IN IT? THE POLICE NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING TO ME ABOUT THAT...



COME NOW, MR. WAYNE... IT'S NO SECRET THAT MY CLIENT HAS IN THE PAST HAD SOME CONNECTION TO THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT OF GOTHAM.

AREN'T YOU JUST USING HIM AS A SCAPEGOAT, BECAUSE HE'S AN EASY TARGET...



... A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN WITH A HISTORY THAT HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM?

OF COURSE NOT.



REALLY? WELL, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOUR OWN PARENTS WERE KILLED BY AN ASSAILANT WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BOY?



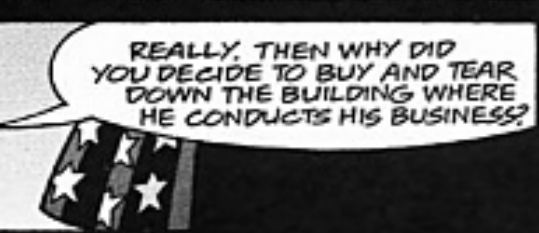
YES... BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T SEE THE CONNECTION. THAT WAS OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO.



DON'T YOU LOOK AT MY CLIENT AS A SYMBOL OF THE EXACT THING THAT BROUGHT DOWN YOUR PARENTS, AND MORE RECENTLY YOUR FRIEND?



NOT AT ALL.



REALLY, THEN WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BUY AND TEAR DOWN THE BUILDING WHERE HE CONDUCTS HIS BUSINESS?



IT'S EMBARRASSING, REALLY. I WANTED A WATER-FRONT OFFICE, BUT ONCE I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THE PLACE...

...WELL, IT'S JUST SO UGLY.



MS. GREEN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO CROSS?



NO, YOUR HONOR, THANK YOU.



DAMN IT! HOW
COULD WE LOSE?!
DAMN IT TO
HELL!

OSWALD...
CALM DOWN.
THIS ISN'T
HELPING
MATTERS.

DON'T EVEN TALK TO ME,
SHYSTER! YOU'RE USELESS!
YOU LET THAT FOP
BRUCE WAYNE WALK
ALL OVER YOU!

... OH, MY GOD...
PLEASE, OSWALD,
YOU'RE NOT THINKING
STRAIGHT... PERHAPS
WE CAN APPEAL, OR--

NO THANKS, I'VE HAD ENOUGH
OF WORKING WITH THE SYSTEM.
GUYS LIKE WAYNE ALWAYS
WIN IN COURT...

... I'LL HANDLE
THIS MYSELF
FROM HERE ON IN.

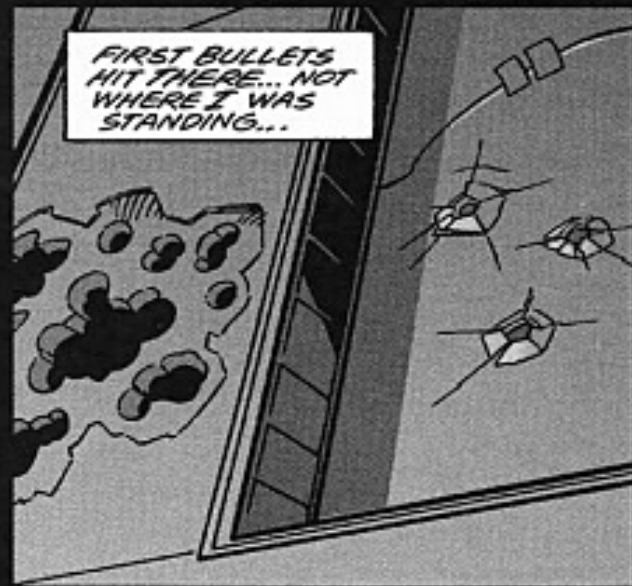
YOU'RE
NOT PLANNING
TO KILL WAYNE,
I HOPE?

RIGHT, I'D HAVE AN
EASIER TIME TRYING TO KILL
LEX LUTHOR. NO, WAYNE
IS TOO HARD TO GET TO...

... BUT THERE ARE OTHER
PEOPLE WHO DISRESPECTED
ME TODAY... PEOPLE WHO
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
BETTER.

I DON'T EVEN
WANT TO HEAR
THIS! YOU'LL
MAKE ME AN
ACCESSORY.





I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF
HERE.





I LEFT SASHA AT THE SCENE TO DEAL WITH THE POLICE, AND THEN I RUSHED RACHEL TO THE HOSPITAL, BECAUSE SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY IN SHOCK.

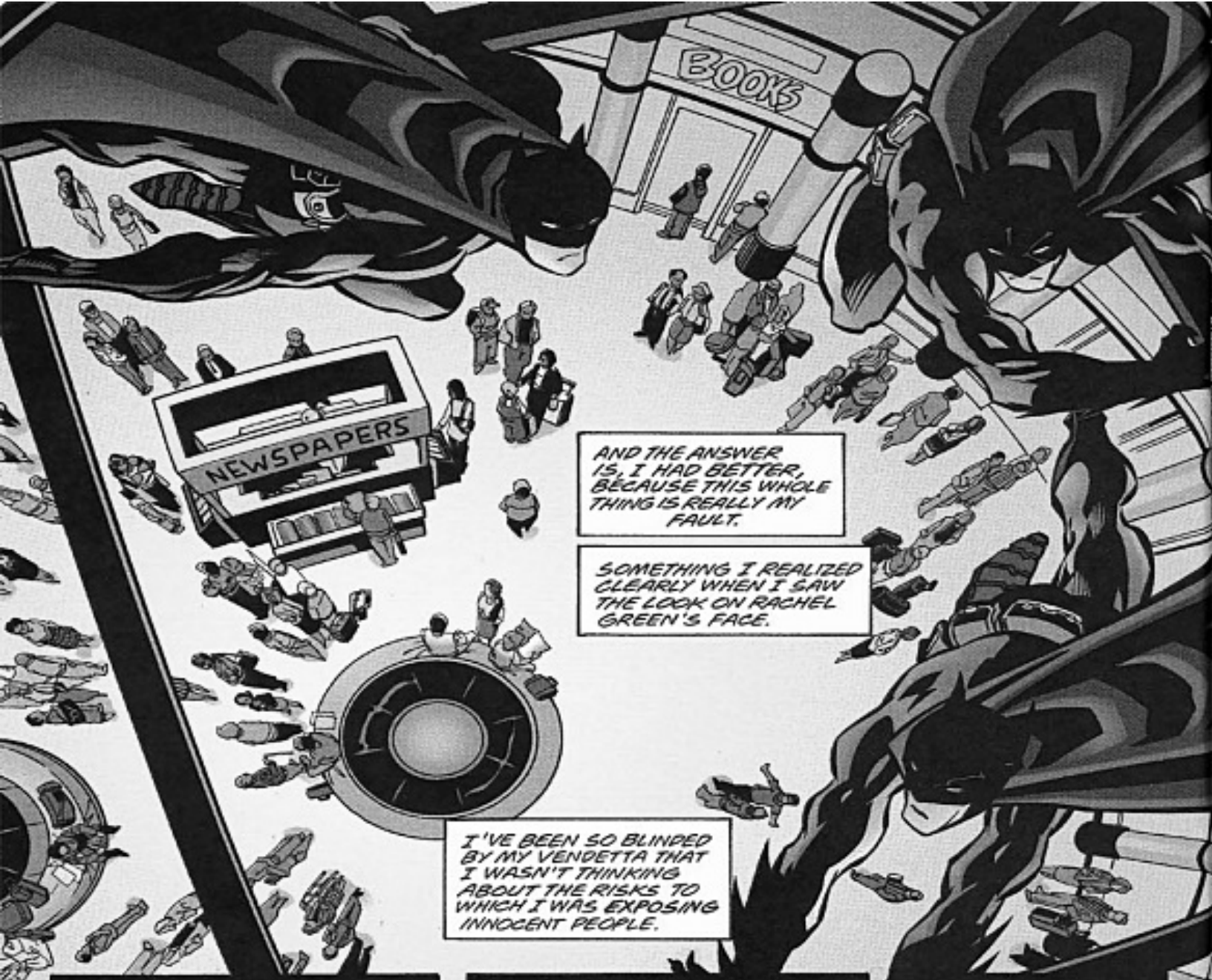
I DITCHED THE NEW DRIVER AT ST. LUKE'S EMERGENCY ROOM. SASHA WILL BE UPSET LATER, THOUGH.

ORACLE GATHERED ALL THE INFORMATION SHE COULD ABOUT JUDGE BACH. TONIGHT, AS USUAL, HE'S BOOKED ON THE 8:50 TRAIN UPSTATE.

AND THE TRAIN LEAVES IN A LITTLE UNDER FIVE MINUTES.

SO, THE QUESTION IS, WILL THE PENGUIN HAVE THE GUTS OR STUPIDITY TO TAKE OUT A JUDGE, AND IF SO...

...WILL I BE ABLE TO FIND HIM IN TIME TO STOP IT?



AND THE ANSWER
IS, I HAD BETTER,
BECAUSE THIS WHOLE
THING IS REALLY MY
FAULT.

SOMETHING I REALIZED
CLEARLY WHEN I SAW
THE LOOK ON RACHEL
GREEN'S FACE.

I'VE BEEN SO BLINDED
BY MY VENDETTA THAT
I WASN'T THINKING
ABOUT THE RISKS TO
WHICH I WAS EXPOSING
INNOCENT PEOPLE.

SPEAKING OF
INNOCENT PEOPLE,
THERE'S A FAMILIAR
FACE.

AND THERE'S TWO MORE.
BOBBY GARCIA AND TURK
TOMLIN, TWO OF THE
PENGUIN'S TORPEDOES.

GREAT,
THEY'VE
SPOTTED
ME...





STAY
DOWN. YOU'LL
BE SAFE.

SO MUCH FOR
DOING THIS THE
EASY WAY.

SCRASHH!

NEWSPAPERS

AHHH!



STAY
DOWN. YOU'LL
BE SAFE.

SO MUCH FOR
DOING THIS THE
EASY WAY.

SCRASSHH!

NEWSPAPERS

AHHH!

WERE THESE TWO
WAITING FOR THE
JUDGE? OR FOR
ME?

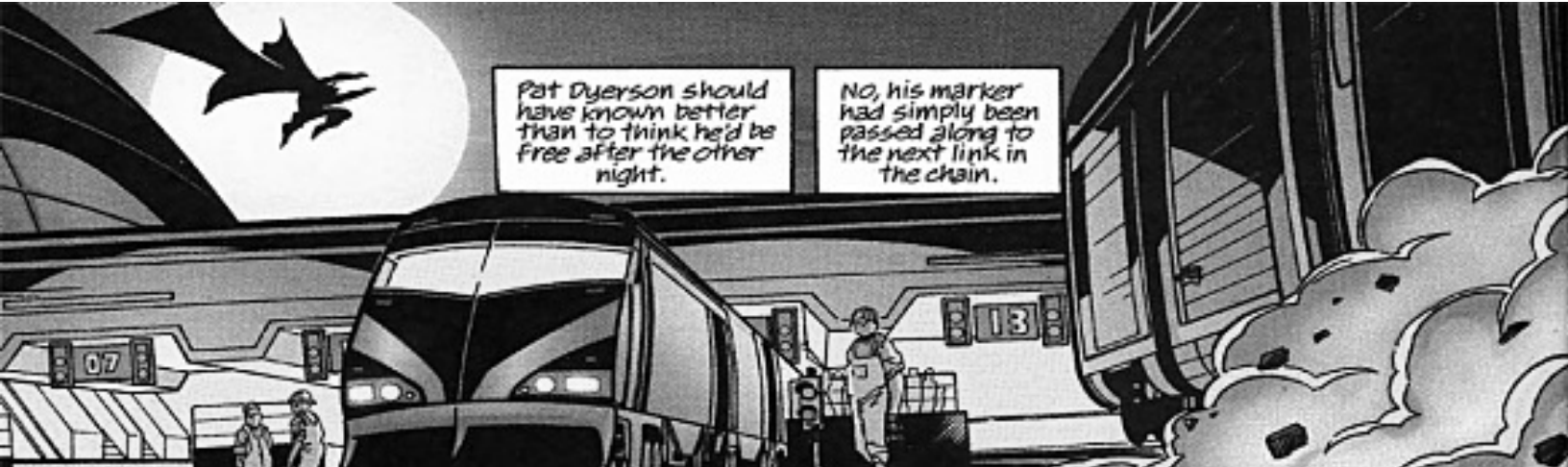
HIS TRAIN IS
LEAVING RIGHT
NOW, SO UNLESS
HE'S RUNNING
LATE...

... HE SHOULD
BE ON IT.

COULD I
GET THAT
LUCKY?

NO. TRACK 13, OF
COURSE... WHERE MY
FRIEND FROM THE
OTHER NIGHT WAS
HEADED. DAMN.

TRACK 11 LA...
TRACK 12 BLÜDHAVEN
TRACK 13 EISNERTON
TRACK 14 PITTSBURGH
TRACK 15 METROPOLIS
ANTA



Pat Dyerson should have known better than to think he'd be free after the other night.

No, his marker had simply been passed along to the next link in the chain.



And when the men showed up last night with this errand, he had no choice.

It was the only way out of his debt.



And it was simple, too. He just had to board the 8:50 train, and find the man in the picture.



Then he was to leave the briefcase in the compartment with him, as if he were just stepping out for a moment.

They said it was a payoff, and who was he to argue?



Except he could swear he heard a faint ticking coming from the case.



They told him
not to open it,
but he had to
know.



And then he
thought, "Well,
this is an unlucky
end to an unlucky
life, isn't it?"



Unless...



OF COURSE
NOT... THAT
JUST FIGURES,
DOESN'T IT?



NICE TRY...
NOW HOW ABOUT
YOU LET ME TAKE
A SHOT.

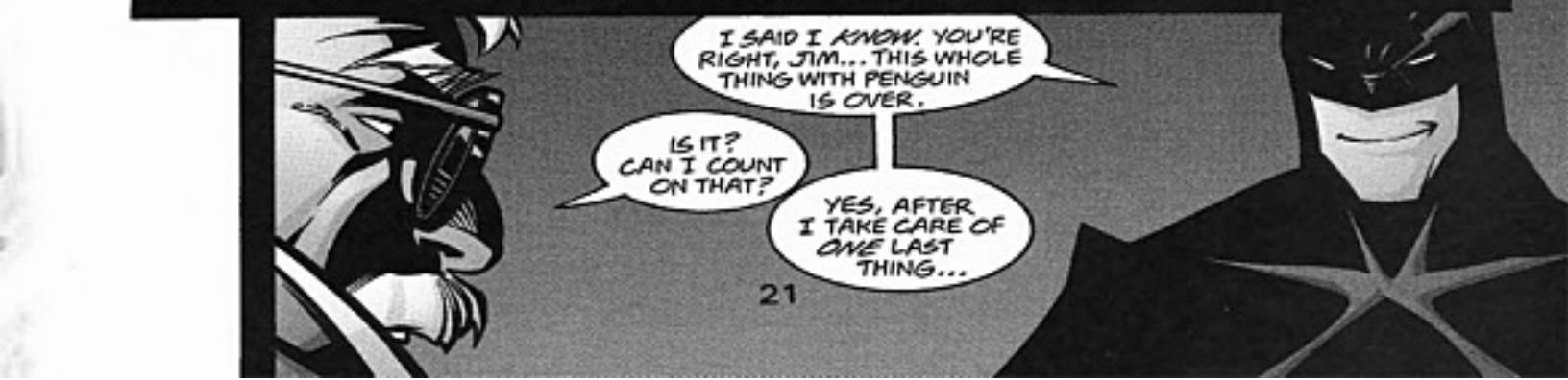
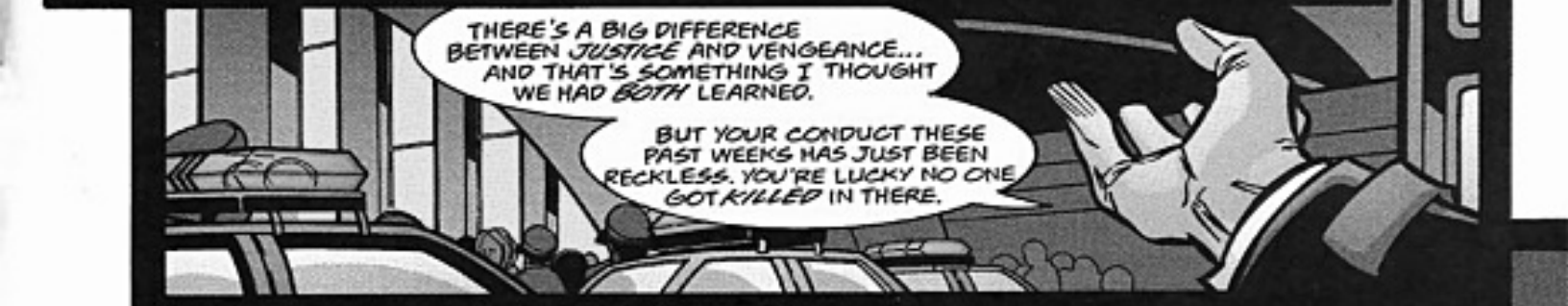
I-I-
BUT--



I'M GLAD
TO SEE YOU'RE
NOT SUCH A BAD
GUY, AFTER ALL,
PAT DYERSON.

I DIDN'T KNOW...
I THOUGHT IT WAS
MONEY, OR... I
DIDN'T KNOW...

...I DIDN'T
KNOW...



"...BUT
THIS IS
MORE ABOUT
HELPING
OUT SOME
OF HIS
VICTIMS."



TRY THESE
NUMBERS
TODAY

47 40 9 17 22
GOOD LUCK



GOOD LUCK



YOU'RE KIDDING?!
HE JUST DROPPED
THE WHOLE THING?
I CAN STAY?

YEAH, BUT
I SAID THERE
WAS BAD NEWS,
TOO, BOSS...

WHO
CARES?
HOW BAD
COULD IT BE?
I WON!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW
HOW, BOSS... BUT FIFTY
PEOPLE PICKED ALL THE
RIGHT NUMBERS THIS
WEEK...

...WE'RE
PRACTICALLY
BROKE.



I'LL KILL HIM...
I'LL KILL HIM WITH
MY OWN HANDS...



NEXT ISSUE:
**BATMAN
DIES!**

News From The Cave!!!

Three special announcements to make before we get going with this month's mail. First, we've got a very special miniseries running through this entire month! Totaling five issues in all, **BATMAN: TURNING POINTS** not only examines in painstaking detail one of the most important alliances of the Batman, it also sets the stage for our first major plotline of 2001! **TURNING POINTS** features such august creative names as (alphabetically speaking): Brent

Anderson, Ed Brubaker, Chuck Dixon, Joe Giella, Dick Giordano, Steve Lieber, Paul Pope, Greg Rucka, Bob Smith, and Claude St. Aubin!

Dear Batguys,

BATMAN ANNUAL #24 was enjoyable, thanks to John Ostrander's great script. But the real stars of this book, aside from the Batman and the Boggart, were the always-magnificent Jim Aparo and Sal Buscema. Jim hasn't lost his touch as far as drawing the Dark Knight's concerned — and Sal's inking has a touch of Dick Giordano's style. Should Scott McDaniel, Paul Ryan, or any of the other current Bat-artists decide to leave one of the Bat-books, I vote for Jim to succeed him (with either Buscema or Giordano at the inking helm).

I don't know if my letter will be published in a future issue of **BATMAN**, but I would like to make a few suggestions as well as offer some sort of gripe:

(1) Bring back the "New Look" costume from **DETECTIVE #327** — the one with the yellow oval, cylinder-type utility belt, and long ears! That's the image of the Batman that I grew up with — and I'd like to see it for good by either the end of 2000, or early in 2001.

(2) Bring back the Batman logos from the 1970s, for not only the covers of **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE**, but also the splash pages for all Bat-stories. And while I don't want the cover logos for **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT** changed, I believe that **GOTHAM KNIGHTS** needs a new logo. In my opinion, it's individuality that counts as far as the Bat-books' logos are concerned.

(3) For next year's annuals theme, I suggest "Whatever happened to ... ?" There are a lot of great characters in the DC Universe who are ripe for rediscovery — hopefully, you'll take my suggestion seriously. And after that — no more annuals themes for a while, okay? Let the various writers and artists working on them go on their own tangent, okay?

JOHN L. LAVERNOICH
WINSTED, CT

Lots of interesting suggestions, John. I know where you're coming from in terms of wanting to see the Batman look you grew up with, but think of it like this: what if Julie Schwartz had edited the Bat-books back in the seventies with that same mindset? What if he'd followed the suggestions of readers who complained that this wasn't **THEIR** Batman, the guy who smiled a lot and fought space aliens? Sure those were fun books, but Julie (along with Denny O'Neil, Neal Adams and some other topnotch creators) decided that the Batman could be reinterpreted for a new era. And that's what we've done. We're maintaining the essence of the character, but we're not afraid to explore new territory — in look and in content.

Next year's annuals theme has already been determined, but I must say I really liked your idea. I'll mention it to my DC comrades next year when we're thinking about those 2002 annuals.

Yay! Finally a good writer to go along with McDaniel's amazing pencils.

JOSH STAFFORD
VIA AOL

For the record, our new Bat-scribe is Ed Brubaker. If you like Ed's unique style of storytelling, check out the **DEADENDERS** series from Vertigo. I'd also highly recommend the **SCENE OF THE CRIME** trade paperback.

Dear Batman Editors,

I have kind of a goofy question. My girlfriend and I have a bet going, and you all are the only ones who can

answer it. The question is: How did Bruce Wayne get all the gadgets (the Batmobile, the Batwing, Batboat, the supercomputer in the Batcave, etc...) built without a contractor or engineer spilling the beans? My girlfriend says he and Alfred did all the work. Alfred is a handy guy and a hell of a cook, but for some reason I just do not see him putting industrial wiring into the Batmobile. Can you clear this up for me, please? A HUGE bet rides on the answer to this question. If I lose, I have to cook for my girlfriend for two weeks straight in a Batman costume complete with utility belt, mask and cape. If I win, she has to dress up like Catwoman for me. I eagerly await your reply. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

MIKE TAISCH
VIA AOL

Get out that cape and cowl, Bat-boy. You'll be dressing up for your intellectually superior girlfriend for the next two weeks. Indeed, Bruce and Alfred did all the work themselves (with components delivered by different persons and companies so no one of them could tell what Bruce was working on). And while lately they've had Harold helping them out, our judges say that little technicality won't save your caped caboose from the kitchen.

Thanks for writing, folks. See you in 30!

Your pal in the Batcave,
Michael Wright

NEXT ISSUE:
Beware the perilous Penguin! Think we're kidding? Okay, try this one on for size — **NEXT ISSUE:**
Batman dies! See Ed, Scott and Karl for details on the funeral.



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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Cover by Scott McDaniel, with color by Patrick Martin. Whoops! We mistakenly credited the cover color for issue 584 to Patrick Martin, when in fact the colorist was none other than Scott McDaniel.

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